



# American Internet Services Network

Internet Services Worldwide

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

With all due respect, the federal government's antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft was the antithesis to the principles of capitalism and free market enterprise. Therefore, I am very pleased with the settlement particularly because it spares Microsoft from being broken up.

The settlement may not be perfect; however, the anticipated results will be superior to anything a costly, time-consuming, and counterproductive lawsuit would have accomplished. In fact, the government's original goal to break up Microsoft was seriously misguided. If successful, this would have been a disaster for standardization and reliable software products with regard to the Windows OS. In short, Microsoft would not function well as three separate companies. Innovation would be the first casualty of this scenario.

The settlement should more than satisfy Microsoft's critics because, if one accepts the premise that Microsoft was a monopoly, the settlement's requirements will put an end to any anticompetitive behavior in very short order. Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. It is also going to be required to share portions of its Windows source code with its competitors. These two aspects of the settlement alone will significantly improve competition in the marketplace - negating a break up of Microsoft.

I truly hope this matter is finalized and that the settlement is instituted very soon.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lundahl  
President

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